

Vancouver Food Policy Council Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, June 11, 2008, 6:00-8:30pm
Strathcona Room, City Hall

Present:

Chairs: Andrea Reimer

Council Members: Daryl Arnold, Barbara Joughin, Trish Kelly, Janine de la Salle, Carla Shore, Kim Sutherland, David Tracey

Requests for Leave: Doug Aason, Susan Kurbis, Melanie Kurrein, Tara McDonald, Chris Miewald, Carole Christopher, Herb Barbolet, Andre LaRivière, Yona Sipos

1. Opening:

- 1.1 Introductions - 4 guests introduced themselves to Council.
- 1.2 Review Meeting Agenda - Vancouver Park Board has been moved to September 10th and was replaced by the Vancouver Fruit Tree project. 7.4 Council Liaison added.

A discussion followed regarding the number of people necessary for quorum. As the City Clerk's office is not processing new appointments until after the civic election, quorum is flexible during the transition. The entire FPC will be reappointed in Jan 2009, with terms ending in Dec 2011. **ACTION:** Andrea R to offer assistance to City Clerk's office regarding the terms of appointment.

- 1.3 Consent Agenda - May Minutes **MOTION:** to accept May minutes. Moved by Trish, seconded by David, carried unanimously. **MOTION:** To accept the request for leave. Moved by Barbara, seconded by David, carried unanimously.

2. Updates:

- 2.1 Communications Committee - Andrea R
Reported that Andre will bring material to July meeting.
- 2.2 Eco-Density - Andrea R
Charter has been approved, including input from FPC. It was felt that EcoDensity will continue to be a priority for the City, and that it is a good opportunity to give local food system issues greater prominence, as staff prioritizes an Action Plan. **ACTION:** Andrea R will contact Brent Toderian to set up meeting to discuss priorities.
- 2.3 Food Secure Vancouver Study - Barbara J
Updated draft proposal was circulated prior to meeting. Committee is seeking approval of proposal. Next steps: to initiate literature review, develop ToR for study, and plan event for Fall 2008 to meet with other relevant groups working on this topic. Study will only consider elements that are policy-relevant, as City Council is a primary target. The deliverable is not a report, but a dynamic information centre that can provide targeted information. Results expected 2009. It was clarified that the FPC will own the report, and that a plan for communication and dissemination should be included within the protocol for dissemination that is in place for FPC activities. **MOTION:** To accept the proposed Food Secure Vancouver study as presented and attached. Moved by Barbara, seconded by David, carried unanimously.
- 2.4 Forum Committee - no report available
- 2.5 Staff Update (written)
 - Report to City Council went smoothly. Council allocated \$34000 to infrastructure from Community Amenity Fund, VCAN was awarded funds to work on vulnerable communities from Social responsibility fund.

- Devorah sent a memo regarding the 2010 motion, stating that 1248 new plots have been created since the motion was passed. Tara and Devorah are working with EcoDensity staff to ensure food issues included.

2.6 Budget discussion - Andrea R

Budget has been allocated and approved. Subcommittees are reminded to use their funds, and to be proactive with requests. **ACTION:** 2010 committee to meet to discuss budget needs. It was suggested that one forum could be the Fall 2008 event of the Food Secure Vancouver Study, as the subcommittee's current budget has been overspent. This will be discussed at the next meeting. Subcommittees must have plans for allocated funds by July, or funds will be reallocated. **ACTION:** Trish K to ask Carole to clarify Eat Local 2008 budget item.

3. **Presentation by community group - Heidi Sinclair**

Coordinator - Renfrew Collingwood Food Security Institute, Collingwood Neighbourhood House

Institute has been active 6 years. First project was mapping project for community gardens, rooftop gardens, fruit trees, now have 12 initiatives from that. Main goal is to reduce hunger, through provision of neighbourhood breakfast, and with new focus on homeless, breakfast includes shower, healthcare, clothes. Group has a grant to connect to CNH and increase outreach at the neighbourhood level. Other goals include leadership and training, are working with community development model and much help from volunteers. Community garden is now operating independently. Rooftop garden was started four years ago. Wanted fruit trees, education, neighbourhood voted on design. As 80% of the community are recent immigrants, it is challenging to do multilingual workshops. Neighbourhood also now has higher density. Since original mapping, no needs assessments have been done. There is a plan to do mapping by Joyce train station to identify to TransLink possible locations for food gardens.

4. **Announcements**

4.1 June 18 Metro Vancouver Meeting - Barbara J

A call went out to FPC members to attend and take minutes, the benefits of FPC were reiterated. If interested, respond to call. **ACTION:** Barbara J to send message to FPC requesting presence at forum. It was suggested that FPC could have nametags for easy identification. **ACTION:** Trish K to email to Andre IR requesting action regarding identification of FPC members.

4.2 June 18 Dinner with Steve Cohen (Portland)

Scheduled after Metro Van event, good networking opportunity. Contact Herb for more information.

4.3 Tye sponsors website from climate action dividend for community action projects.

Members are encouraged to visit website to set up project or check to donate

5. **Presentation - Vancouver Fruit Tree Project (Jason Barton, Gustavo Garcia)**

Founded in 1999, the project has a database of 350 sites where there are fruit trees, as well as community partners such as Neighbourhood Houses and Community Kitchens. They organize groups to pick and distribute fruit. Some partners have programs for canning and preservation. In 1999, 2000 lbs of produce were picked, and in 2006, 5000 lbs were picked, accessing 30% of sites. Project did not operate in 2007 due to lack of coordination. Major challenges are the lack of continuity and lack of appropriate transportation. Group will operate on a smaller scale for 2008, working on long-term vision to access more. Website has been updated. The project is looking for a stable partner. Suggestions for transportation included Telus, SPUD, Quest, Novex. **ACTION:** Carla S, David T, and Andrea R to help make connections with Fruit Tree Project. Host organization suggestions included SPEC, Food bank.

6. **Update - non VFPC projects**
 - 6.1 UBC Farm - UBC Planning

All Members are urged to attend the design planning process at UBC June 25
 - 6.2 Motion re: Urban Ag Co-op

Andrea has received similar proposals, issue to be revisited at next meeting.
7. **New Business -**
 - 7.1 Requests for input by City Council re: Chickens, Fruit Trees, Bio-Fuels

Chickens - should not be male chickens due to noise, must be managed for odour and slaughter. Caution is needed as two incidences have happened with avian flu, we have high commercial poultry density, recommend to consult with vets at Abbotsford agricultural on feasibility. **ACTION:** Daryl A will liaise with Abbotsford vets on the avian flu issue and report back.

Fruit trees - although fruit trees in practice are allowed for replanting, the bylaw has not been changed to reflect this. It was clarified that this issue relates not to street trees, but to replacing trees on private property (Schedule A). **ACTION:** David T to write language that FPC recommends that City have staff clean up the fruit tree bylaw.

Biofuels - Background: Maple Ridge passed a motion that they would oppose any biofuel policy that does not specify the difference between use of food crops vs biodiesel. **ACTION:** Trish K will research biofuel issue and report back.
 - 7.2 Discussion of staffing possibilities - Andrea R

Although FPC would like a liaison from Engineering, as Cameron Grey is coming to July, it was felt better to wait until after his presentation. FPC work overlaps with many departments, opportunities may be missed. It may also be useful to have representation from the City Clerk's office.
 - 7.3 VFPC Internship - no report available.
 - 7.4 Council liaison - It was felt that the FPC could be more effective with representation from City Council. The meetings were moved to City Hall to facilitate Councillor participation. In order to have representation from City Council, FPC would need to consider changing the days of the meetings. It was suggested that the FPC request other Council liaison in order to educate Council on the importance of food system issues. It was felt that Peter Ladner has provided strong support, and discussion with him would be worthwhile. **ACTION:** Andrea R to communicate with Peter Ladner regarding FPC needs.

Meeting adjourned at 8:42pm

SUMMARY OF ACTIONS

- 1.2 **ACTION:** Andrea R to offer assistance to City Clerk's office regarding the terms of appointment.
- 2.2 **ACTION:** Andrea R will contact Brent Toderian to set up meeting to discuss priorities.
- 2.6 **ACTION:** 2010 committee to meet to discuss budget needs.

ACTION: Trish K to ask Carole to clarify Eat Local 2008 budget item.
- 4.1 **ACTION:** Barbara J to send message to FPC requesting presence at forum.

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- 5 **ACTION:** Carla S, David T, and Andrea R to help make connections with Fruit Tree Project.
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